

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ANTWER 00045 231037Z

12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04

SIL-01 AGR-10 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 FEA-01 /108 W

----- 006913

R 230915Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL ANTWERP

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1012

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS ANTWERP 0045

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ECON, ENRG, BE, XG

SUBJ: TINDEMANS VIEWS ON BELGIAN ECONOMY IN 1975

ON JANUARY 16 PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS SPOKE IN ANTWERP ON
"WHAT WILL 1975 BRING US ?" AT A MEETING SPONSORED BY THE
VLAAMS EKONOMISCH VERBOND(FLEMISH ECONOMIC UNION) AND ATTENDED
BY SEVERAL HUNDRED LEADING BUSINESS AND BANKING FIGURES FROM
THE ANTWERP AREA.

TINDEMANS WARNED HIS AUDIENCE THAT THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS
IS NOT A PASSING THUNDERSTORM BUT A LASTING CHANGE IN THE CLIMATE
AND THAT A SUPREME EFFORT WILL BE NECESSARY TO PREVENT THE PRESENT
RECESSION FROM TURNING INTO A DEPRESSION.AT THE SAME TIME HE
CAUTIONED AGAINST LAPSING INTO APATHY OR PANIC. HE ARGUED STRONGLY
OF THE NEED FOR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO ADOPT A COMMON RATHER THAN
NATIONALISTIC ENERGY POLICY, STATING THAT FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD
ENDANGER THEIR ECONOMIC POSITION AND INFLUENCE ON OIL PRODUCING
COUNTRIES.

TINDEMANS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE GREAT NUMBER OF BUSINESS
ENTERPRISES IN DIFFICULTY IN BELGIUM BUT SAID THAT A LARGE
PUMP-PRIMING SCHEME WAS IMPRACTICAL AS IT COULD INCREASE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ANTWER 00045 231037Z

INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT AND ENDANGER BELGIUM S COMPETITIVE

POSITION IN FOREIGN MARKETS.HE SAID BELGIUM IS TOO CLOSELY LINKED WITH OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO CONDUCT AN INDEPENDENT ECONOMIC POLICY, BUT SAW LITTLE CHANCE OF AN ECONOMIC UNION IN THE COMMON MARKET BY 1980, LET ALONE A MONETARY UNION. HE STRESSED THAT UNEMPLOYMENT WOULD BE BELGIUM S MAIN PROBLEM IN 1975,AND SAID THAT ONE-THIRD OF ALL UNEMPLOYED BELGIANS WERE NOW UNDER 25.

TINDEMANS PREDICTED A PRICE INCREASE IN BELGIUM IN 1975 OF FROM 10 TO 11.7 PERCENT(COMPARED TO APPROXIMATELY 16 PERCENT IN 1974) AND CONTRASTED THIS WITH GREATER ANTICIPATED INCREASES IN A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES.HE ALSO CONTRASTED A 31 PERCENT INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT IN BELGIUM WITH WHAT HE LISTED AS 40 PERCENT FOR THE NETHERLANDS AND FRANCE, 141 PERCENT FOR GERMANY, AND 640 PERCENT FOR DENMARK.

OUR CHILDREN, HE SAID, WILL FACE MORE DIFFICULTIES THAN WE HAVE HAD.
FISHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, ECONOMIC REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ANTWER00045
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750025-0639
From: ANTWERP
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750128/aaaaayiz.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAY 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <25 NOV 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TINDEMANS VIEWS ON BELGIAN ECONOMY IN 1975 ON JANUARY 16 PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS SPOKE IN ANTWERP ON
TAGS: ECON, ENRG, BE, XG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006